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THE DUEL

BY LEON GRAUER.

A Strange looking person sat in a room

downed coffee house or cafe, reading the

papers, but at the same time smoking a

small clay pipe and drinking his coffee

with an air of satisfaction. He wore a

doublet of black cloth, with a white

in the latest style, a blue white necktie, or

scarf, being the only thing white to be

seen in his dress.

He sat in Major L., accompanied by

several military friends. The Major

was far different in disposition and char-

acter from any of his comrades. He

possessed an indomitable passion to

ridicule everything and to persecute

everything with his sarcasm; therefore

he was much feared by his compan-

ies.

The Major seemed to be in a rather

lively humor, and it appears as though

he was literally seeking for some one on

whom to practice his acquired habit of

ridicule. The party in black, whom he

took for a school teacher, on account of

his peculiar dress, had hardly been es-

spied by the Major, than he had quietly

behind his chair, as though it was ac-

cidental, or blew the light out. His

comrades laughed. The stranger coolly

relied the gas as though nothing had hap-

pened, and continued reading.

Now thought the Major, I know my

man he will stand something. He there-

fore approached him and said, sarcasti-

cally, good evening my dear 'famous',

at the same time grasping his hand,

and with it the pipe he held which was

lightly broken into pieces.

'Waiter' another pipe, called out the

man in black, seemingly very quiet and

cool.

The comrades of the Major laughed

still louder.

The Major called him a splendid

fellow.

As he could not rouse the fire of this

party, as was generally the case with

those whom he selected as his victims,

and also being obliged to take a hand in

a game of whist, he went into one of

the play rooms, followed by his entire

suite, and left the man in black sit-

ting alone.

The party in black continued reading

his paper, and drank his coffee, and

seemed to have quite forgotten the re-

cent insult of the Major and his party.

But as soon as he had finished reading,

he got up and went into the room, in

which the Major was playing, and step-

ping up before him, and catching him

by the lapel of his coat, said:

'Sir, to-morrow morning we fight, and

with pistols.'

'So, so,' interrupted the Major, 'will

the school teacher bring his rattan with

him?'

'You are mistaken, sir, I am a captain

in the British navy. To-morrow morn-

ing we meet at the Post's lane.'

The captain left without another

word.

The entire company of yesterday ap-

peared at the appointed place with the

Major on the following morning. The

my pistols I hit to a certainty, of which

you shall soon be convinced. John,

and he called his jockey, throw some-

thing up in the air.'

The jockey pulled out his handkerchief

—No, said the captain, something

smaller, a piece of money, a button or

something of the kind.'

The jockey pulled a plum out of his

pocket.

Good, John, cried the Captain, now

throw it high up in the air.'

The jockey threw the plum up; the

captain aimed; there was a flash and a

report, and the plum came spurring

down burst into many pieces.

An involuntary bravo, escaped the

lips of the lookers on. The Major turn-

ed pale as death.

The Captain did not speak another

word about the plum shot, but quietly

reloaded his pistol in the presence of

the second, and went back to take his

place.

The Major had also regained some of

his coolness.

'Shoot, Major, cried the captain.

The second wanted to interfere, but

the captain put him back and shouted

a little louder. 'Shoot, Major.'

The Major shot, and—missed.

'Shoot again, Major; you aimed

misery. Should I fill it will be

lucky, not alone for you but for all of

these gentlemen, because I intend to

make you, one and all, look into the

muzzle of my pistol.'

These words seemed like shivers to

the lookers on. Every one excused him-

self for having laughed yesterday. The

second said, nothing at all the second

shot because the Major now shot for

them all, then if this monster did not

bite the dust he would shoot all down

like dogs.

The Major raised his pistol and aim-

ed, but every thing seemed swimming

before his eyes. His nerves were un-

steady.

The captain looked him straight in

the face. At last he said: Yesterday

I was your teacher in joke; to-day I will

have to be your teacher in earnest.

You hold your weapon too high. You

will never hit me.

The Major shot and missed. And hot

perspiration could be seen on the soan-

ious countenance.

When the captain raised his pistol

and aimed and—lowered it again.

'Major,' spoke the Captain, 'you are a

misery creature. I enquired about you

yesterday and every one speaks ill of

you. Let me tell you you have ceased to

live. Now I will be your teacher, and

command you to pray to the great

and retaliating God, and ask his forgiv-

ness for your sins. Pray that all peo-

ple whom you have wronged may forgive

you and God will have mercy on your

soul. Hat's off gentlemen! When we

speak with the Great Master of the

world it must be done with the un, over-

ed head.

All took off their hats and the jockey

his cap. With his eyes up-lifted to-

wards heaven the Captain prayed for-

Vexations of a Front Yard

THE VEXATIONS OF A FRONT YARD

WE have recently moved into a house

that has a front yard. We have always

lived in houses where the front yard

was a mere strip of ground, and we

thought that the children would play in

the yard whether there was a street

through it or not, and for two or three

years we have had a very good time

over by the front yard. The children

run through our front yard, and we

have a very good time. The children

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